

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 16, 17 and 30 stand canceled.

The Amendment leaves claims 1-15, 18-29, 31-37 pending.

5 Claims 14 and 29 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful comments and are now consistent with recited antecedent basis, and are believed to overcome the 35 USC §112 rejection.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) over Staerzl U.S. Patent 6,173,669.

10 Claim 1 has been amended to further focus the invention, including particular distinction over Staerzl '669, and consideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

15 Staerzl '669 shows in Fig. 11 a stern drive unit extending from transom 100 of a boat, and including a housing 104 within which a plurality of components, such as shafts, bearings, and gears, are contained, column 18, lines 40-44, and as noted by the Examiner in the Office Action at the top of page 3. As noted in Staerzl '669 at column 18, lines 48+, an external region of the drive housing 104 is painted with conductive material to provide a first conductive surface, and the opposite side, e.g. the port side, of the stern drive unit is painted with an electrically conductive paint to provide the noted other conductive surface, which first and second electrically conductive surfaces correspond to previously described conductive starboard and port portions 20 and 22. The first and second conductive surfaces in Fig. 11 are separated by a 20 non-conducting region 114, column 18, line 58, such that *the two conductive portions of the external surface of the housing 104 are not connected directly to each other electrically*, column 18, lines 60-62. In operation, current flows from one side of the stern drive unit to the other side, between the two conductive surfaces, column 18, lines 65-67. Biofouling by barnacles and the like is inhibited by the alternating current flow between such first and second surfaces, e.g. Fig. 4 25 showing alternating direction current flow 51 and 52. Fouling prevention is accomplished by the two conductive surfaces and the alternating current flow therebetween in opposite directions.

30 In contrast, amended claim 1 now requires unidirectional nonalternating current flow through the galvanic circuit. This is in direct contradistinction to Staerzl '669. Furthermore, there is no motivation to modify Staerzl '669 to eliminate one of the two directions of current flow or eliminate one of the half cycles of the alternating current flow because such modification

would be contrary to the stated purpose of Staerzl '669 for anti-fouling by bidirectional alternating current flow. Consideration and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-13 depend from claim 1 and are believed allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, these claims define subcombinations which are believed allowable.

5 Claim 14 has been amended comparably to claim 1 and is believed allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, claim 14 defines a combination which is believed allowable.

Claims 15, 18-28 depend from claim 14 and are believed allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, these claims define subcombinations which are believed allowable.

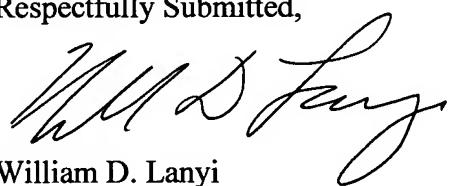
10 Claim 29 has been amended comparably to claim 1 and is believed allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, claim 29 defines a combination which is believed allowable.

Claims 31-37 depend from claim 29 and are believed allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, these claims define subcombinations which are believed allowable.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance with claims 1-15, 18-29, 31-37, and such action is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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